

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

In re application of

Mao MASUHIRO et al.

Appeal No. _____

Serial No. 10/728,820

Group 2446

Filed December 8, 2003

Examiner S. Sciacca

MAINTENANCE INTERFACE USER AUTHENTICATION
METHOD AND APPARATUS IN CLIENT/SERVER TYPE
DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

REPLY BRIEF

April 17, 2009

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONORS:

On the bottom of page 40 of the Examiner's Answer, the Examiner states that "O'Donnell only discloses authentication being performed based on information in a server." This is not correct, for the arrangement claimed herein.

The claims herein include a system that includes a client device (hereinafter, device A), a server-side console (device B), and a server (device C). To paraphrase the claims in the interest of clarity, device C receives a request from device B for access to device A. Device A authenticates device B based solely on information from device C.

By contrast, O'DONNELL et al. disclose that an authentication server performs user authentication based solely on what the authentication server itself holds. That is,

O'DONNELL et al. disclose an arrangement with device A and B above, but not device C. A user's computer (corresponding to device B) is authenticated based on information in an authentication server (corresponding to device A).

There is nothing in O'DONNELL et al. that would lead the artisan to modify GB '107 as suggested by the Examiner because one of the pieces (device C, the server) is missing from O'DONNELL et al. The suggestion to rely on an authentication server as disclosed in O'DONNELL et al. does not correspond to the invention as claimed herein that includes a third device that provides the authentication information.

The Examiner's comments regarding authorization and authentication are moot in view of the above.

Allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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